

### **Amendments to the Claims:**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

### **Listing of Claims:**

Claim 1 (Previously Presented) A free-flowing particulate detergent composition or component therefor which comprises 2.5 to 5% by weight of magnesium stearate, based on the weight of the composition or component before addition of the magnesium stearate, the detergent composition or component, without the magnesium stearate being present, having a hygroscopicity value of at least 2%, the magnesium stearate being particulate and layered onto the surfaces of the detergent composition or component, and the magnesium stearate is present on the surface of the particles.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented) A composition or component as claimed in claim 1, wherein, without the magnesium stearate being present, the composition or component has a hygroscopicity value of greater than 5%, preferably greater than 10%, more preferably greater than 20%, most preferably greater than 25%.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended) A composition or component as claimed in claim 1-~~or 2~~, wherein the magnesium stearate has a number average particle size of from 0.1 to 500 micrometres, preferably from 1 to 200 micrometres, more preferably from 2 to 100 micrometres, most preferably from 3 to 50 micrometres, or even from 3 to 20 micrometres.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended) A composition or component as claimed in ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1 wherein the particles are adjunct components selected from the group comprising; bleach or enzyme granules and effervescent granules.

Claim 5 (Previously Presented) A component according to claim 4 which is a perfume granule comprising maltose and polybutyl methacrylate.